

SOUTH MOUNTAIN SCENERY

The South Mountain Scenery byway offers motorists a transitional drive between the piedmont and mountains.

To access the byway's southern terminus, **travel along U.S. 74 West from Shelby and take N.C. 226 to the community of Metcalf, where the byway begins.** Shelby, the Cleveland County seat, was named for Isaac Shelby, a

Revolutionary War commander. Cleveland County was formed in 1841 and named for Col. Benjamin Cleveland, a hero of the Battle at Kings Mountain.

From Metcalf, **follow N.C. 226 to Polkville**, located in the First Broad River Valley. Here, look for glimpses of the South Mountains ahead to the right. Along the way, enjoy the upper Piedmont farmlands and spectacular mountain views. Corn and apples are some of the crops that may be seen from the road. This part of the route is in Rutherford County. Formed in 1779, the county was named for Griffith Rutherford, a member of the Provincial Congress and a Revolutionary War general. Cherry Mountain lies to the southwest and earned its name from the production of liquor and "cherry bounce" — produced

from local cherry trees — brewed here after the Civil War.

The South Mountains are an isolated

range located in Burke, Rutherford and Cleveland counties. The Cherokee Indians called them the *Oakanoahs*. South Mountains State Park and the South Mountains Wildlife Management Area offer interesting side trips. The state



NC DOT

South Mountains State Park

park is 16 miles south of Morganton off Old N.C. 18 (S.R. 1924). Both the state park and wildlife management area are located in Burke County. To get to the park, take I-40 to Exit 104. Travel north on Enola Road (S.R. 1922) for one-half mile. Turn right onto Old N.C. 18, follow this road south back over I-40, and follow signs from there.

Continuing on the byway, pass through the Dysartville community, named for the family who settled this area. While driving the last 10 miles toward Marion, glimpses of North Carolina's Appalachian Mountains are visible from the route. **The byway ends at the intersection with Henredon Road (S.R. 1819), just before I-40 and south of Marion.**